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and Division  
General series. Memorandum.*

# CHANGES IN LEGISLATION IN GENERAL ASSISTANCE AND MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES IN CANADA, 1966

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A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE, CANADA





CHANGES IN LEGISLATION IN GENERAL ASSISTANCE  
AND MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES IN CANADA, 1966

Research and Statistics Directorate  
Memorandum No. 22 - General Series

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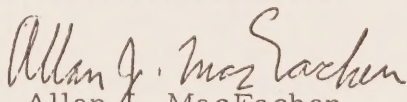
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Deputy Minister of National Welfare



## FOREWORD

This bulletin, reviewing changes in legislation in general assistance during 1966, is a sequel to the three previous publications covering the years 1958 to 1965. We have departed from our previous practice of including legislative changes for two or more years in one publication because of the unusual volume of legislation enacted in 1966, much of it a result of the passage of the Canada Assistance Plan.

This material was prepared by Miss Ruth Brown of the Welfare Research Division of the Research and Statistics Directorate.


  
Allan J. MacEachen  
Minister  
National Health and Welfare



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## CHANGES IN LEGISLATION IN GENERAL ASSISTANCE AND

### MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES IN CANADA, 1966

#### SUMMARY

During 1966, major changes in general assistance occurred at the federal and provincial levels with the passage of the Canada Assistance Plan and with new or amended legislation in nine provinces. In general, there was a marked trend toward the elimination of categorical programs, the assumption of increased responsibility for administration and financing by provincial welfare departments, and an emphasis on standards of service and administration, including the strengthening of preventive services.

Under the Canada Assistance Plan, designed to replace the existing federal-provincial programs, increased federal funds became available to the provinces for the development of their programs of assistance and services to persons in need.

Four provinces -- Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan -- passed new Acts which made extensive changes in the administration of their social assistance programs. Five others -- Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta -- amended existing Acts and regulations. In Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, the Province assumed responsibility for the administration of assistance formerly the responsibility of the municipalities.

Saskatchewan and Ontario discontinued receipt of applications under the three federal-provincial categorical programs of old age assistance, blind persons allowances and disabled persons allowances, and made provision to aid the needy aged, blind and disabled under their general programs with costs shared under the Canada Assistance Plan. This change permits allowances to be based on a needs rather than a means test, and eliminates the ten years' residence requirement.

Saskatchewan's new Act provides for assistance to all needy persons, irrespective of the cause of need, under a single program to be administered by provincial or local units. In Ontario, several programs of provincial aid to persons with long-term need were consolidated under The Family Benefits Act.

Mothers' Allowances were discontinued as separate programs in Ontario when The Family Benefits Act became effective, and in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick where aid to needy mothers was integrated with their general assistance programs.

In Alberta, The Preventive Social Services Act made provision for provincial sharing in the cost of a wide variety of services sponsored by municipalities designed to benefit the community generally.



Several provinces set or extended requirements respecting standards of service, including staff qualifications, to be observed by municipalities in the administration of assistance. Rates of social assistance were increased in eight provinces<sup>1/</sup> and needy mothers' allowances were increased in Quebec.

#### THE CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

The Canada Assistance Plan (S.C. 1966-67, c. 45) assented to July 15, 1966 and effective from April 1, 1966, was enacted as a comprehensive public assistance measure to complement other income security measures. It provides a single administrative framework for federal contributions, under agreements with the provinces, of 50 per cent of the costs of assistance provided to persons in need and prescribed costs of welfare services that have a preventive or rehabilitative emphasis.

The Canada Assistance Plan is designed to replace the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1956, although the latter continues in effect for an interim period in some provinces with respect to certain programs which utilize a means test and thus are not covered under the Canada Assistance Plan. Under the terms of the Canada Assistance Plan legislation, the provinces may discontinue the receipt of applications under the programs of old age assistance, blind persons allowances and disabled persons allowances and may provide instead, aid to these groups under their general programs, with costs shared under the Canada Assistance Plan. Also, arrangements made prior to the coming into effect of the Canada Assistance Plan for contracting out of certain shared-cost programs under the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act, 1965, are applied with some amendment, to an Agreement under the Canada Assistance Plan<sup>2/</sup>.

The Canada Assistance Plan incorporates in large part the provisions of the Unemployment Assistance Act, but broadens the basis for federal sharing through an extension of the cost-sharing formula and through the removal of the requirement that persons be unemployed. Federal sharing is extended to the following costs not previously shared under the Unemployment Assistance Act: the cost of assistance to needy mothers with dependent children, maintenance of children in the care of provincially approved child welfare agencies, health care services to needy persons, and the extension of welfare services to prevent or remove causes of dependency or to assist persons receiving assistance in achieving the greatest possible degree of self-support.

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<sup>1/</sup> Changes in rates in British Columbia are authorized by departmental directives rather than by the Act or regulations and are not therefore included in this summary.

<sup>2/</sup> Quebec is the only province affected by this provision.

"Health care services" may include medical, surgical, obstetrical, optical, dental, and nursing services, drugs, dressings and prosthetic appliances. "Welfare services" may include rehabilitation services; case work, counselling and assessment services; adoption services; and homemaker, day-care, and similar services supplied to persons in need or to persons for whom the service is essential if they are to remain self-supporting. Community development services are also included in the definition of "welfare services".

The only eligibility requirement for assistance specified in the Canada Assistance Plan is that of need, which is to be determined through an assessment of budgetary requirements as well as of income and resources. Rates of assistance and eligibility requirements are set by the province, with the restriction that a province may not require previous residence in the province as a condition of eligibility for assistance or for continued assistance. The provinces are thus able to adjust their rates to local conditions and to take into account the needs of special groups. The Plan requires the provinces to establish procedures for appeal from decisions that relate to the provision of assistance.

The federal government reimburses the provinces for 50 per cent of assistance provided to persons in need and for 50 per cent of certain costs of improving or extending welfare services.

"Assistance" includes any form of aid to or on behalf of persons in need for the purpose of providing the basic requirements of food, shelter, clothing, fuel, utilities, household supplies and personal requirements; or for providing other requirements including items necessary for the safety, well-being or rehabilitation of a person in need, such as special food or clothing, telephone, rehabilitation allowance, or items necessary for a handicapped person; care in a home for special care such as a home for the aged, a nursing home, or a welfare institution for children; travel and transportation; funerals and burials; health care services; welfare services purchased by or at the request of provincially approved agencies; and comfort allowances for residents or patients in hospitals or other prescribed institutions.

The cost of improving and extending welfare services may be calculated either as (1) the amount by which the cost, to the province and to its municipalities, of providing welfare services exceeds that of the base year, April 1, 1964 to March 31, 1965, or (2) as the cost of employing persons who are engaged wholly or mainly in the performance of welfare service functions and who are employed in positions filled after March 31, 1965. The costs include, for sharable purposes, the costs of salaries and employee benefits, travel, research, consultation, fees for conferences and seminars, and certain costs of staff training, whether incurred by the province or by the municipalities.



The sharing of costs of work activity projects that prepare persons for employment and the costs of the extension of provincial welfare services to Indians on reserves, on Crown lands or in unorganized territory are governed by special agreements. The federal contribution under an agreement covering work activity projects include 50 per cent of the costs of allowances to participants, and the salaries and travel costs of staff providing services. Agreements covering services to Indians may provide for a federal contribution in excess of 50 per cent of prescribed costs to the extent that the costs of providing assistance and services to Indians is higher than that for other groups.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND

During 1966 the Social Assistance Act was amended and new regulations were issued.

Under the Social Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1966 (S.N. 1966, No. 60), assented to March 25, 1966, the Minister of Public Welfare, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, is authorized to enter into agreements with the federal government respecting payment by Canada to the Province for any portion of the cost of providing assistance to persons in need, and to enter into reciprocal agreements with any other province respecting assistance to persons in need.

The Social Assistance Regulations, 1966 (Newfoundland Regulation 29/66), gazetted April 26, 1966, effective from April 1, 1966, revoked and replaced former regulations. They were subsequently amended by Newfoundland Regulation 70/66 gazetted August 2, 1966, which authorized an increase in food allowances. The new regulations retain most of the provisions of the previous regulations, but there have been some significant changes including increased rates of allowances, allowances to cover a wider range of need situations, and a more detailed statement of "non-allowable" income.

The terms distinguishing the two kinds of assistance granted are now based on the length of time assistance will be needed. Thus, social assistance granted by the Social Assistance Board, formerly termed "social assistance in cash", is now referred to as "long-term assistance" and social assistance granted by a welfare officer, formerly known as "social assistance in kind", is now termed "short-term assistance".

#### Income and Assets

The regulations set out, as formerly, the various items to be treated as allowable income, but include as an additional item, an assessment based on 12 1/2 per cent of gross annual turnover of a retail business conducted by the applicant. Non-allowable income, that is, amounts which are treated as income for purposes of calculating need, now include a monthly amount from relatives who are living with

the applicant. This is set at \$25 a month for adult relatives who are employed or who are recipients of certain governmental benefits. Relatives receiving social assistance or whose income is not in excess of the social assistance rates for food, clothing and personal care are excluded for this purpose, as are single sons and daughters receiving unemployment insurance.

Exemptions from calculations of allowable income may be permitted when an applicant for long-term assistance, in order to earn income, must make certain expenditures toward the care of the home or management of business or other source of income. The allowable income for a family with children was raised from \$900 to \$1,080.

The amount of liquid assets permitted applicants for long-term assistance has been increased from \$500 to \$750 for an adult, and from \$1,000 to \$1,250 for a family.

The allowable income under short-term assistance has been increased. Income is now calculated for the 30 days preceding the date of application, rather than for the preceding 60 days as formerly. For a single applicant, the permissible net income for the preceding 30 days may not exceed \$75, for a family of two persons it may not exceed \$110, and for a family of three persons, \$125. The former amounts were \$25, \$45, and \$55, respectively. For a family of more than three persons the amount may not exceed \$135 plus \$15 for each additional member of the family. The former amounts were \$55 and \$10. If an applicant's income exceeds the stated amounts, his application may be reconsidered when his income during the past 30 days has decreased to the amounts permitted.

In calculating income for applicants of short-term aid, the following are included: payments under various governmental income maintenance and insurance programs received by the applicant or his spouse; \$25 a month from recipients of similar benefits who are related to the applicant or his spouse and are living with them; an amount of \$25 from adult relatives who are employed and living with them; and all allowable income.

#### Rates of Assistance

The rates for food were increased and allowances specified for a number of items not heretofore authorized. Allowances for some items are now specified for an adult living with relatives and a rent allowance is also specified for a family living with relatives.

Food. Under Regulation 70/66, the food allowance was increased for the period July 1, 1966 to March 31, 1967, and a further increase effective April 1, 1967 was authorized. The monthly food allowance for a recipient of long-term aid was raised effective July 1, 1966

from \$25 to \$30 for the first adult in the family and for the head of a family under 21 years; from \$20 to \$25 for each additional adult in a group of adults or a family; from \$20 to \$25 for an adult living with relatives and for a wife under 21 years; and for a child, from \$10 to \$15. Effective April 1, 1967, these rates were increased by a further \$5 a month.

Clothing. The former amount specified for clothing was increased by \$5 a month to include an allowance for personal care for all classes of recipients except for each child, for whom the amount remains unchanged at \$5.

Rent. The rent allowance for families in rural and urban communities remains as formerly (\$25 and \$50). Rent allowances are now specified for adults living alone or with relatives, and for families living with relatives. An adult living alone in a rented room or apartment not owned by relatives may be granted \$20. An adult or family living with relatives who are not receiving assistance may be granted \$10 a month if sharing a room with a member of the family, or \$15 if occupying a separate room.

Household Maintenance. The regulations now include provision for an allowance for household maintenance for home owners -- \$20 a month for a person living alone and \$25 a month for the head of a household. In the case of joint ownership of the home by two or three persons, the amounts allowed per person are \$12.50 and \$8.33 respectively.

Board and Lodging. A rate for board and lodging is now included. The rate set at \$60 a month effective April 1, 1966, was increased July 1, 1966, to \$65, with a further increase to \$70 on April 1, 1967. An allowance of \$15 for clothing and personal care is also given.

Incapacitated Adults. Special rates for board and lodging for incapacitated adults are set. The monthly rate for an ambulatory person in a supervised boarding home is \$75, and in an approved institution up to \$120. The rate for a bedridden person in a supervised boarding home is \$90 and in an approved institution, up to \$180. (The rates for persons in an approved institution are the same as those set under the Hoyles Home (Administration) Regulations, 1965). In addition, an allowance of \$15 a month for clothing and personal care is granted. The former rates were \$90 a month for an ambulatory person and \$120 for a person who was bedridden, with clothing allowances granted in addition. No difference in rates between supervised boarding homes and approved institutions was made in former regulations.

Foster Child. The rate for a child living with a guardian set at \$25 under Regulation 29/66 was increased under Regulation 70/66 to \$30 a month from July 1, 1966. A further increase to \$35 a month from April 1, 1967 was authorized.



Housekeeper Services. An allowance for housekeeper services is authorized. The maximum amount, if the housekeeper is a relative is \$45 a month, and if a non-relative, \$60 a month.

Additional Social Assistance. The additional amount which may be granted to a family, on approval by the Minister under special circumstances, such as illness in the family or age of children, has been raised from \$30 to \$50 a month.

Short-term Assistance. Food allowances which were formerly less than those specified for long-term assistance are now granted at the same rates as those under long-term aid and increases are effective as from the same dates. Other items of need such as fuel, clothing and shelter are given, as formerly, on an emergency basis only.

Home Repairs. The maximum assistance which the Social Assistance Board may grant a person towards repairs and renovations to his home has been raised from \$300 to \$600 in any one year. Additional amounts may be granted, but are subject, as formerly, to the approval of the Minister or of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The aggregate amount payable with the approval of the Minister is \$1,200 in any one year; the former provision was \$1,000 in any four-year period. Amounts in excess of \$1,200 must be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, but it is no longer required that a mortgage on the land and home be held by the Minister for any amount granted with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

#### Other Changes

The period after which a deserted or separated mother is eligible for assistance is three months provided she has taken legal action to obtain support from her husband.

The age beyond which an incapacitated adult is not required to submit a medical certificate certifying incapacitation has been lowered from 55 years to 50 years for women and has been set at 65 years for men.

The revised regulations omit two former provisions: the former section under which no assistance was payable to a person awaiting unemployment insurance benefits unless he agreed to repay the amount of such assistance from unemployment insurance benefits when received; and the provision for assistance in the expenditures involved in centralization when a community wishes to move to a centralized location<sup>1/</sup>.

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<sup>1/</sup> The removal of households from outlying settlements to more favoured communities within the Province is now administered by the Department of Community and Social Development. Certain costs of this resettlement program are shared with the federal government under the Newfoundland Fisheries Household Resettlement Agreement, which expires in 1970.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The Welfare Assistance Act (S.P.E.I. 1966, c. 32), assented to April 7, 1966, proclaimed in force on October 26, 1966, repealed and replaced the Social Assistance Act and the Mothers' Allowances Act<sup>1/</sup>. The Welfare Assistance Regulations 1966 were gazetted May 6, 1967, to have effect from October 26, 1966.

The major changes made by the Act and regulations include: the assumption by the Province of financial responsibility for the costs of assistance and services to all needy persons with no requirement for a financial contribution from the municipalities; the replacement of the Social Assistance Board by an advisory board, the General Welfare Assistance Board; the setting by the Province of rates of assistance; the amalgamation of the Mothers' Allowances program with the general assistance program; and the elimination of residence requirements.

Although the Province has assumed the financial responsibility for aid to needy persons, the Act provides, as previously, for the authorization of assistance to needy persons by the councils of the City of Charlottetown, the Town of Summerside and any incorporated town.

The Minister of the Crown charged with the supervision of the Act is to be assisted by an advisory board, the General Welfare Assistance Board, of which he is the Chairman. The other four members are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for terms up to three years. They serve without salary but may be paid travelling expenses in connection with the work of the Board and each member, other than the Minister or a member of the Civil Service, may be paid a per diem allowance while engaged in the work of the Board.

The former Social Welfare Board, which consisted of the Minister, certain departmental officials, and three other persons, had certain administrative functions which are now the responsibility of the Minister.

The Act provides that any person who persistently refuses or neglects to maintain any other person for whose maintenance he is liable, is guilty of an offense and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$200 and in default of payment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month.

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<sup>1/</sup> Under an amendment to regulations under the Mothers' Allowances Act gazetted June 25, 1966, to have effect from April 1, 1966, the maximum monthly allowance for a mother and one child was raised from \$70 to \$75, the amount for each additional child was raised from \$5 to \$10, and the maximum of \$125 per family was deleted.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is authorized to make regulations governing procedures and policies and other matters related to the administration of the Act. The regulations, subsequently gazetted, prescribe conditions of eligibility, the method of determining need, rates for items of basic need and for items of special need, and provisions for appeal and for welfare services. These are described below.

#### Conditions of Eligibility

The applicant must submit a completed application form to the Department and must produce evidence that he has explored, within the limits of his ability, every possibility of support for himself and his dependants. As a condition of continuing eligibility, he must advise the Department of any changes in resources, dependants or location; avail himself of any rehabilitative services that will enable him to become self-supporting or partially self-supporting, and he must use assistance in the best interests of himself and his dependants. Also, an applicant must furnish full particulars of any assignment or transfer of real or personal property made within the two years preceding the date of application.

A review, including a personal interview, to determine continuing eligibility must be made at least once a year or oftener as determined by the Director of the program.

#### Determination of Need

The budget deficit method is to be used in determining need. In cases of short-term unemployment or unemployability, only an allowance for those items necessary to meet emergency need are to be granted. However, the Director is given authority to use discretion in any case in which hardship would otherwise result. In determining need, income from all sources is considered with the exception of certain specified items: family and youth allowances, casual gifts of small value, contributions other than for ordinary maintenance to recipients or members of a family who require special care; liquid assets up to \$500 per recipient or \$1,000 per family; cash surrender value of insurance up to \$1,000; casual earnings up to \$20 per month. A mother with dependent children whose husband has deserted, is dead, totally disabled, a patient in a T.B. sanatorium or provincial hospital, and who was receiving an allowance at October 26, 1966, when the new Act came into force, may have savings up to \$1,000 or an amount held in trust up to \$5,000, if all of the trust fund is applied to a series of future payments for the support of the children.



### Assistance Provided

Assistance is paid by cheque, but when the need for assistance is urgent or temporary, assistance may be provided by an authorization for goods or services. If eligibility cannot be determined at once and the need for assistance is urgent, minimum assistance may be granted for a period of up to two weeks. If a recipient is incapable of looking after his own affairs, assistance may be paid to a trustee approved by the Director.

The regulations set maximum rates for food, clothing, household and personal items, shelter, fuel and utilities. Amounts granted may not be in excess of an amount considered to be a reasonable standard in the community. The Director may authorize allowances for rent or for board and lodging in excess of the amounts specified under special circumstances.

Food. The maximum monthly allowances for food is \$30 for each of the first two adults in the household, \$20 for each additional person and \$15 for each child under 12 years of age. Rates may be increased if a recipient requires a special diet.

Clothing. The maximum monthly allowance for clothing is \$15 for the head of the household and \$10 for each additional person.

Household and Personal Items. The monthly allowance for household and personal items is set at \$6 for the first adult, \$4 for the second adult, \$2 for any child under 18 years not in receipt of an allowance and \$2 for each additional person over 18 years. The maximum monthly allowance per family unit is \$16.

Rent. No rental allowance is granted until a person has been in receipt of assistance for at least one month. The rental allowance is paid at the end of the month in which the service was provided. The maximum rental allowance in rural areas is \$40 per month and in urban areas, \$60. If an applicant is buying his own home, an allowance covering taxes, mortgage payments, fire insurance and other assessments may be granted but may not exceed an amount which would be reasonable for comparable accommodation in the same area.

Board and Lodging. Board and lodging in a private boarding house may be paid at the rate of up to \$80 per month for one person or up to \$120 a month for a couple.

Fuel and Utilities. An allowance for fuel and utilities may be granted on the basis of actual cost based on the previous year's expenditures, provided it does not exceed what might be reasonable for comparable services in the same area for the same period. The allowance may be increased from October 1st to May 31st.

Items of Special Need. Assistance up to \$200 in a year may be granted for items required to obtain employment where these are not provided by the employer. Also, assistance up to \$150 per household per year may be granted for items of special need which include the following: essential household equipment, furnishings and supplies; housekeeping and homemaker services; cash payments on essential household equipment and furnishings; bills in arrears for not more than three months for shelter or utilities prior to the application for assistance; materials or services required in rehabilitation or training; expenses incidental to education; and any item essential to the safety, well-being or rehabilitation of the recipient. If the amount of assistance granted is more than \$150 per household in a year, prior approval of the Director must be obtained.

Health Care Services. Assistance may be granted on behalf of a person in need to provide for necessary medical and surgical services, nursing, dental and optical care including dentures and eyeglasses, essential prescription drugs and prosthetic appliances. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is authorized to appoint two medical practitioners to a medical advisory board on a full or part-time basis for the purpose of these regulations.

Institutional Care. Assistance may be granted in respect of persons in licenced nursing homes and homes for the aged, hostels for transients, and other institutions offering primarily a residential or a social rehabilitation program. A comfort allowance of up to \$10 a month may be granted to recipients receiving institutional care.

Foster Children. Assistance may be granted, subject to the approval of the Director, on behalf of a child cared for by a foster parent in a foster parent's home. It must be established that the child's natural parents are unable to support him or that it would be impractical for them to do so. Also, it must be established that a transfer of legal guardianship is not required and that the foster home is considered suitable to meet the child's needs.

Transportation. Assistance may be granted for the transportation of a person in need if he is being returned to his normal place of residence, if it is required to enable a recipient or one of his dependants to obtain suitable employment, if it is required to obtain medical, hospital or nursing home care that cannot be provided at his normal place of residence or, subject to the approval of the Director, if it is required for the relocation of persons in need for social or economic reasons.

Funerals and Burials. Assistance may be granted for the cost of a funeral and burial up to a maximum of \$150.

Supplementary Assistance. Assistance may be granted to a person whose income from employment does not meet his needs, if the Director is satisfied that hardship would otherwise result.

Welfare Services. Assistance may be given in the form of welfare services to persons in need and to those who, in the absence of such services, are likely to become persons in need. Payments may be made to provincially approved agencies for providing welfare services on a fee-for-service or unit cost basis and may include: rehabilitation services; casework, counselling and assessment services; homemaker, day-care and similar services and any other services approved by the Director.

#### Other Provisions

Appeal. An appeal committee must be established to consist of three members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for three years. One of the members serves as chairman and all serve without salary but may be paid a per diem allowance and travelling expenses incurred in attending meetings. A recipient may appeal to the Director from a decision made by a municipal office and may make a further appeal to the appeal committee, whose decision is final.

Confidentiality. All information pertaining to a recipient is to be confidential.

#### NOVA SCOTIA

The Social Assistance Act, (S.N.S. 1966, c. 13) assented to April 6, 1966, and proclaimed in force from August 1, 1966, repealed and revised the Social Assistance Act of 1958. Regulations under Part I (Provincial Assistance) of the Act became effective August 1, 1966 and those under Part II (Municipal Assistance) became effective September 22, 1966.

Under the revised legislation the method of determining the amount of provincial or municipal assistance is specified, rates for the various budget items are set, a number of administrative changes are made, and provincial reimbursement to municipalities now takes account of their relative financial capacities.

#### Part I - Provincial Assistance

Part I of the Act provides, as formerly, for disability assistance, assistance to needy mothers, and assistance to foster parents. The regulations now specify amounts for various items of need, set maximum allowances and the method of calculating income and set out appeal procedures. The Act authorizes the Minister of Public Welfare to designate from the public service a person to be the Administrator of assistance provided under Part I.



The amount of assistance in each case is determined by the Administrator after receipt of a report from the Assistance Advisory Commission, which continues to act in an advisory capacity to the Minister and to have major advisory functions respecting applicants for and recipients of assistance under Part I. The Administrator may suspend, discontinue, reduce, increase or resume assistance at any time. Assistance may also be suspended or discontinued when a recipient for a period exceeding 30 consecutive days is a patient in a hospital or is absent from the province.

#### Disability Assistance

Assistance was formerly granted to a disabled person between the ages of 18 and 65 if the disability was "permanent" and the applicant was unable to support himself. Under the new Act, an applicant must, in the opinion of the Administrator, be disabled to the extent that he is unable to be employed, he must be in need, and be unable to support himself. The disability must be likely to continue for an indefinite period. No age range is now specified.

#### Assistance to Needy Mothers and Foster Parents

Coverage has been broadened under the Act through an extension of the basic age of children from 16 to 18 years, an extension of categories of mothers covered, and an increase in allowable assets. (Extensions for children attending school were made under former legislation to the age of 18 or until the end of the school year in which the 18th birthday fell).

The Act specified the circumstances under which an allowance may be granted to a needy mother but does not, as formerly, specify period of time which must elapse before eligibility is established if a mother is deserted or her husband is imprisoned. The relevant section now reads "assistance may be granted to a woman who has in her care and custody one or more children whom she is unable to support or maintain by reason of the death, disability, absence or desertion of her husband or the person legally responsible for the support of the children to support them". To qualify for an allowance, an unmarried mother must be maintaining a home for herself and the child. Formerly, assistance was granted only to an unmarried mother if she had been living as the wife of a man for at least five years prior to his death.

Assistance may be granted, as formerly, to foster parents under certain conditions. The Administrator must be satisfied that the applicant is a suitable person to have a child in her care and custody and that the child is being properly cared for.

### Liquid Assets and Allowable Income

An applicant for disability assistance may not have more than \$1,000 in cash or in securities readily convertible to cash. If the applicant is married and sharing a common home with his spouse, the amount is increased to \$1,500. Formerly the amount permitted was \$500; no increase was authorized for a married applicant.

The amount of cash or liquid assets which an applicant who is a needy mother may have has been increased from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Amounts up to \$1,500 which have been set aside in trust for the education or training for each dependent child are not included in the calculation of assets of the applicant. An applicant who is receiving or whose husband is receiving a war veteran's allowance is not eligible for an allowance under the Social Assistance Act. A needy mother who qualifies for an allowance may also qualify for an allowance on behalf of a foster child.

A foster parent and her spouse may have a combined income in cash or equivalent value of \$5,000. Under former regulations a foster parent was disqualified if the amount of her annual income or that of her spouse was in excess of \$1,200 in cash or its equivalent or if the family income exceeded \$1,200 plus \$150 for each dependant.

### Income

For the purpose of determining whether or not there is a budget deficit, income is calculated in accordance with the schedule set out in the regulations. This includes 50 per cent of gross wages; 25 per cent of the gross amount received from boarders, with a minimum charge of \$10 a month; 80 per cent of the gross amount received from roomers; 50 per cent of the gross amount received from rents from properties; 100 per cent of unearned income; and 100 per cent of net profit from business; 50 per cent of contributions of \$35 or more. Income from a vocational training allowance is deducted as wages if the applicant is living at home, and is deducted as an adult board rate and the excess treated as wages if the applicant is living away from home.

### Rates of Assistance

The regulations specify that provincial assistance shall be granted in the form of periodic payments of money or services (defined as goods, shelter, training or any combination of these) or both. The amount of assistance granted to disabled persons or to needy mothers is determined by the amount of the budget deficit, that is, the amount by which "the total cost of regularly recurring needs ... exceeds the income ..." subject to specified maximums. The regulations set out the amounts of regularly recurring needs such as food, clothing, rent, utilities, etc., to be used in calculating total need.

Subject to an overall monthly maximum of \$55, the amount of assistance to be paid a disabled person is 100 per cent of the budget deficit. The amount payable to a needy mother with dependant children is 60 per cent of the budget deficit, subject to a family maximum of \$150 a month. Payments on behalf of foster children are set at \$25 a month for the first child and \$20 for each additional child. Total payments to any beneficiary under Part I may not exceed \$150 a month.

The Minister is authorized to make a supplementary payment to any person receiving assistance under Part I of the previous Act in an amount representing the difference between the amount of assistance he received in the period April 1, 1966 to August 31, 1966 and, subject to a ceiling of \$10 a month, the amount he would have received had the new Act and regulations become effective April 1, 1966.

The following schedule of rates for the various budget items is set out in the regulations.

Food Allowance. The monthly food allowance is \$24 for each adult; \$28 for a child 12-18 years of age; \$20 for a child 7-11 years; and \$14 for a child of 6 years or under. Adjustments are made in the food allowance according to family size. For one person living alone 20 per cent is added to the basic monthly food allowance for an adult, for a family of 2 or 3 persons 10 per cent of the food allowance is added. No adjustment is made for a family of 4 or 5 persons. For a family of 6 or more persons a deduction of 5 per cent is made.

Clothing. The monthly clothing allowance for an adult is \$9; for a child 12-18 years, \$10; for a child 7-11 years, \$7; and for a child 6 years or under, \$6.

Rent or Mortgage, Fuel and Utilities. The actual rent up to \$100 per month is allowed; this may be increased to \$115 if fuel and utilities are included. Fifty per cent of a mortgage payment and the actual amount of taxes are paid, but these, together with fuel, electricity and water, may not exceed \$115. Maximum monthly rates are specified for fuel (\$20), electricity (\$12) and water (\$4).

Home Maintenance. A grant of \$12 a month for house maintenance for home owners is made.

Miscellaneous Essentials. The monthly allowance for miscellaneous essentials for an adult is \$4 a month; for a child 12-18 years, \$5; for a child 7-11 years, \$4; and for a child of 6 years or under, \$3.

Board Rates. Board rates are set at \$50 a month for an adult and, for children, at \$50, \$30 and \$25 according to age group.



Other Assistance. With the approval of the Director, assistance may be granted in addition to or in lieu of money payments for rehabilitation services; special medical examinations; special transportation costs; and medical, optical, dental and drug requirements.

### Appeal

The regulations set out procedures for appeal. A person affected by a decision of the Administrator respecting the granting, suspension, discontinuance, reduction or resumption of assistance, desiring to appeal, may do so with the consent of the Director of Social Assistance. He must file a written notice with the Director within 45 days from the date of notification by the Administrator of the decision against which he is appealing. The Minister of Public Welfare then appoints a tribunal of three members to hear the appeal, and designates one of them as chairman. The tribunal may determine the procedure to be followed and may confirm, vary or set aside the decision of the Administrator. The decision of the tribunal has the same effect as a decision or direction of the Administrator. Members of the tribunal are paid such allowances and travelling expenses as the Minister may determine.

## Part II - Municipal Assistance

The Social Assistance Act made a number of changes in the definition of terms, in the administration of municipal homes, and in the municipal administration of assistance.

A "municipal unit" is a city, incorporated town or municipality as defined in the Municipal Act, and each municipal unit now constitutes a welfare district. Under the former Act a poor district which had been formed under the Poor Relief Act became a municipal welfare district within the municipality, and the council of the municipality was authorized to alter boundaries of welfare districts or could decide that the whole municipality constituted one welfare district. "Assistance" is extended to include services. A "person in need" is defined as one "who ... requires assistance in the form of money, goods, or services". The term "municipal homes" has been replaced by the term "homes for the aged and disabled".

Most of the provisions relating to the administration of homes for the aged and disabled remain as formerly. However, provision has been made for the establishment of a management committee of five councillors to supervise the administration of a home. Appointments are to be made annually and one councillor is to be appointed by the Governor in Council. The functions of the committee are to be defined in the by-law relating to the home. Also provision is now made for payment by the Minister to each member of the board of visitors on completion of an inspection of a home of an honorarium and travelling allowance at a rate set by the Governor in Council.

Other changes made by the Act include the following. The proportion of assistance expenditures by municipal units to be borne by the Province is now to be set by the regulations (see below). The welfare committee appointed by a municipal unit continues to have responsibility for furnishing assistance to persons in need, but the Act now authorized the welfare committee, with the approval of the council, to appoint a person to administer and manage all matters that are the responsibility of the committee. Claims against the estate of a person from which a municipal unit is seeking recovery must be made not later than one year after the death of the person to whom assistance was given. The Governor in Council is authorized to make regulations which include those matters listed in the former Act and in addition include regulations which would provide for appeal procedures and authorize the Minister to designate a home operated by a municipal unit as either a home for the aged or a home for the disabled.

The major changes in the administration of municipal assistance are specified in the regulations under Part II of the Act. They set out for the first time the method of calculating need and specify monthly amounts for the various budget items. Changes are also made in the formula for provincial reimbursement of expenses incurred by municipal units, in the standards of administration required, and in the provisions respecting municipally operated homes.

The regulations became effective September 22, 1966. However, if the Minister is satisfied that expenditures made by a municipal unit from April 1, 1966 comply with the new regulations, he may authorize reimbursement accordingly.

#### Rates of Assistance

The regulations under Part II of the Act require municipal units to determine need according to the budget deficit method. Monthly rates for items of regularly recurring need are at the same rates as those under Part I, and income is calculated in the same way. A minimum monthly amount of assistance is specified: \$35 for one person, \$50 for two with a \$10 increase for each of the third and fourth persons in the family, and an additional amount of \$6 for each person in excess of four. Amounts below the minimum may be given only if the budget deficit is a lesser amount.

#### Reimbursement to Municipal Units for Assistance Expenditures

The Act authorized the Minister to reimburse a municipal unit for part of the expenditures made by the unit in providing assistance. The amount which may vary by municipality is fixed by regulation. The former Act provided for provincial reimbursement to municipal units of  $66 \frac{2}{3}$  per cent of assistance given and 50 per cent of the administrative expenses of providing assistance to persons in need.

The following terms of reimbursement are set out in the regulations:

(1) Reimbursement for Assistance to Needy Persons. The percentage of reimbursement for municipal assistance given to needy persons by municipal units in the province ranges from 75 per cent for Halifax, Amherst, Annapolis, New Glasgow and a number of other municipal units to a high of 89.65 per cent for Dominion. One-sixth of the municipal units listed may be reimbursed for 80 per cent or more of assistance costs.

Reimbursement is made at these rates provided the municipal unit has an organized welfare department which conforms to standards set by the regulations (outlined below) and provided the assistance given is not lower than the specified minimum rates. If an amount is paid which is lower than the minimum specified, no reimbursement will be made to the municipal unit unless the amount of the assistance was equal to the budget deficit.

(2) Reimbursement for Special Services. Reimbursement for rehabilitation services, special medical examinations, special transportation costs, or medical, optical, dental or drug requirements, are at the same rates as assistance given needy persons. Reimbursement for the expense of returning a transient to his province of origin will be made only if prior approval of the Director of Social Assistance is obtained.

(3) Reimbursement for Maintenance of Non-Ward Children. No specific rate is set in the regulations for reimbursement for the maintenance of a needy non-ward child. Reimbursement may be at a rate the Minister considers appropriate.

(4) Reimbursement for Administrative Expenses. The Province may reimburse a municipal unit for a percentage of the expenses of administration in providing assistance according to the schedule set out in the regulations. The amount of reimbursement varies by municipality from 50 to 89.65 per cent. As formerly, reimbursement is made only if certain standards of administration are met and if the director and staff of the welfare department or other agency possess the prescribed qualifications.

Municipal units eligible for reimbursement for administrative expenses must now submit to the Minister by September 30 in each year a "projected operational plan" for the ensuing fiscal year. The plan must include a list of all personnel employed by the welfare department and their present salaries and salaries for the next year; a list of proposed new positions with job title, job qualifications and salary; a statement of estimated operating costs and estimated income, exclusive of reimbursement, of the department for the ensuing year; a statement of estimated costs of assistance, and a statement of the program which the department proposes to carry out during the ensuing year, including the needs test to be applied. If estimated operating costs for the ensuing year show an increase greater than 5 per cent over the current year, a full explanation must accompany the financial statement.



When the Minister approves the plan, reimbursement will be made accordingly. No reimbursement will be made for expenditures not included in the plan unless they were "reasonably necessary and could not reasonably have been foreseen or provided for". Reimbursement, as formerly, will not be made in respect of expenditures considered by the Minister to be excessive or unnecessary for the efficient conduct of the welfare department.

(5) Reimbursement for Maintenance of Needy Persons in Homes for Special Care. The regulations provide for provincial reimbursement to municipal units for the maintenance of needy persons in homes for special care, that is, homes for the aged or disabled operated under Part II of the Act, nursing homes, boarding homes, hostels for indigent transients, and other residential facilities for the needy and aged. The amount of reimbursement is  $66 \frac{2}{3}$  per cent of the net cost to the municipal unit of maintaining a person in need in a home for special care, at a per diem rate approved by the Minister. A municipal unit maintaining in a home a person who has attained the age of 65 years or is receiving a provincial disability allowance under Section 7 of the Act, is considered for purposes of reimbursement to be receiving on behalf of such person \$12 less than the amount he is eligible to receive under the disability provisions of the Act, the Old Age Assistance Act, the Blind Persons' Allowances Act, the Disabled Persons' Allowances Act, or the Old Age Security Act.

#### Appeals

A person affected by a decision of a local welfare committee respecting assistance may appeal from the committee's decision. The procedures are as for appeals under Part I.

#### Standards for Municipally Operated Homes

The regulations governing standards for homes operated by a municipal unit include standards for staff; buildings, equipment, furnishings and grounds; food services; medical care; recreational, occupational and religious facilities; and records.

The new regulations authorize the Minister to appoint a classifications committee to "periodically" examine each patient and report to the Director of Social Assistance whether his mental and physical condition is such that the home can provide proper care and, if not, the alternative care required. The committee consists of a senior official of the Department of Public Welfare to act as chairman, the person in charge of the welfare department of the municipal unit operating the home, or if there is no welfare department, a person appointed by the Minister, and a physician designated for this purpose by the Minister of Public Health. The written approval of the Director of Social Assistance is required for all persons admitted to or remaining in a municipal home, but emergency cases requiring temporary care may be admitted pending the written approval of the Director.

Other requirements applicable to homes for the aged or disabled include the following:

- A municipal home with fifteen or more patients must have a supervisor on duty at all times, even though members of the staff are occupying quarters in the home.
- The appointment of a superintendent of a home must be approved by the Minister.
- A sufficient number of staff must be employed to ensure reasonable hours of work and paid holidays for each member as well as satisfactory supervision and adequate personal care of the patient, including provision for personal needs during the night.
- After January 1, 1967, every staff member in a home working with the patients and responsible for their care must have at least a grade ten or equivalent education. Formerly the requirement was grade nine.
- All rooms in a home must contain a sufficient number of comfortable chairs, and there must be a bedside table for each bed.
- Costs of health services are to be included in the overall operating costs of the home.
- Regular supervised recreational programs must be arranged by members of the staff of each home.
- Information contained in a patient's file is not to be revealed except in the course of duty or when required by law.
- The superintendent and all members of his staff are required to carry out their duties and responsibilities "in accordance with up-to-date methods and techniques of care for the aged and disabled".

#### NEW BRUNSWICK

In New Brunswick a new Social Welfare Act, (S.N.B. 1966, c. 27) assented to June 10, 1966, which repealed the Social Assistance Act, 1960, was proclaimed effective from January 1, 1967. The Social Welfare Regulations (Regulation 66-55) gazetted December 28, 1966, also became effective from January 1, 1967.

The Act transfers the administration of assistance from municipal units to the Department of Youth and Welfare. As a result, municipalities have been relieved of all administrative and financial responsibility for aid to needy persons and municipal residence is no longer a consideration in the administration of assistance. Provincial district offices are to replace municipal offices. No categories of needy persons are specified. The regulations set out the method of calculating income and specify maximum rates for the various budget items of basic need and for items of special need.

Certain provisions of the former Act are retained with some amendments. The Act, as formerly, authorizes the Minister of Youth and Welfare to enter into certain agreements, and to operate homes for needy persons; it provides for a Social Welfare Board, sets out relatives' responsibilities, and authorizes regulations governing a variety of administrative matters.

The Act retains provision for an advisory board but its structure and functions have been altered. A Social Welfare Board of not less than seven persons, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for a period not to exceed three years, acts in an advisory capacity to the Minister, who is Chairman. As under the previous Act, members serve without salary but may be paid travelling expenses incurred in connection with the work of the Board and a per diem allowance to be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The former Welfare Advisory Board acted in an advisory capacity to the Director of Social Assistance and consisted of not less than three persons, two of whom were women, appointed for terms up to five years by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, who designated one of the members as chairman.

Under the new Act, action to seize the property of a man who has deserted his family so that the proceeds of any sales or rentals may be applied to the maintenance of his wife and children must be instigated by the Minister rather than by the municipal welfare committee as formerly. Penalties are provided if a person refuses or neglects to maintain another for whose maintenance he is liable, when, as a result of such neglect, social assistance must be provided. A person who is guilty of such an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to \$200, and in default of payment, to imprisonment of not more than one month. The former penalty for a husband or father who failed to provide for his wife and children while he was working and receiving remuneration was imprisonment of up to seven days.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is authorized to make regulations for the administration of the Act, governing among other matters, the following: the manner of application for assistance and any accompanying information, material or proof to be furnished; the definition of income; the determination of eligibility; rates of assistance; the definition of welfare services; and appeal procedures.



### Application for Assistance

Application must be made on the approved form and must be made by the head of the family, unless there is some valid reason why he is unable to do so. As formerly, an applicant must produce evidence that he has explored every possibility of support for himself and his dependants. The applicant is now required to avail himself of any rehabilitative services that will enable him to become self-supporting or partially so, and is required to use the assistance given in the best interests of himself and his dependants.

### Determination of Need

The budget deficit method is to be used in determining need. In the calculation of income, resources considered are similar to those under the former Act. The exemptions permitted are a combination of those permitted under Parts I and II of the former Act with some additional exemptions.

Liquid assets up to \$500 per recipient but not exceeding the \$1,000 per family specified under Part I (Provincial Assistance) of the former Act are exempt. Also retained as an exemption is the cash surrender value of insurance up to \$1,000. It is now provided that a recipient may have casual earnings of up to \$20 per month. No property disqualification is now specified; former regulations set a maximum value on real property above which an applicant was disqualified for a provincial allowance.

A mother with dependent children who was receiving an allowance on January 1, 1967, under the former Act, may have savings of up to \$1,000 or an amount held in trust of up to \$3,000 when the trust fund is applied to a series of future monthly or other periodic payments for the support of her dependent children.

The former provision that if eligibility cannot be determined at once and need is urgent, minimum assistance may be granted until resources were examined, has been amended to provide that such assistance may be granted for a period of up to two weeks.

### Rates of Allowances

A single schedule of rates applies to all recipients of aid. This replaces the former overall monthly rate for mothers with dependent children and the minimum weekly food rate set for recipients of municipal aid. Rates are now set for the various items of basic need: food, clothing, household and personal items. In addition, provision is made for items of special need. However, only items necessary to meet emergency need are to be granted in cases of short term unemployment or unemployability.

While assistance is to be granted to meet the basic requirements of the applicant and his dependants it cannot exceed an amount "considered to be a reasonable standard in the community".

Food Allowance. A maximum weekly food allowance per person is set which varies with the number in the family and with the number of children under 12 years of age. A maximum amount of \$6 is set for one adult, \$4 for the second adult and for each additional person, and \$3 for each child under 12 years of age. The allowance may be increased for special diets on the recommendation of a medical practitioner.

Clothing Allowance. The clothing allowance, payable after three months' receipt of assistance, is set at \$10 a month for the head of the household and at \$5 for each additional person.

Household and Personal Items. The allowance for household and personal items varies by number of persons and age of children in the family, but may not exceed \$15 per family unit. The maximum monthly amount for the first adult is \$6; for a second adult \$4; each additional person over 18 years, \$2; and for each child under 18 years, \$2.

Shelter Allowance. The rental allowance is set at \$40 in rural communities and at \$60 in urban communities. An applicant buying his own home may be granted an allowance to cover taxes, mortgage payments, and insurance, provided the allowance does not exceed what might reasonably be expected to be paid for comparable accommodation in the same area.

Board and Lodging. An allowance of up to \$80 a month for board and lodging may be granted for one person, and up to \$120 for a couple. In an emergency situation the actual cost may be paid.

Fuel and Utilities. An allowance for fuel and utilities may be granted on the basis of cost based on the previous year's expenditure. An increase may be authorized for the period October 1 to May 31.

Items of Special Need. An amount up to \$200 may be granted for items required to obtain employment. Also, assistance may be granted for other items of special need: essential household equipment, furnishing and supplies; housekeeping and homemaker services; bills in arrears for not more than three months for shelter or utilities, accumulated prior to application; materials or services required in rehabilitation or re-training; expenses incidental to education, and any item essential to the safety, well being or rehabilitation of the recipient. If the amount per household in a year exceeds \$150 for these items, the approval of the Director must be obtained.

Health Care Services. Assistance may be granted a person in need for necessary medical and surgical services, nursing, dental and optical care; essential prescription drugs; and prosthetic appliances. A Medical Advisory Board consisting of two medical practitioners may be appointed on a full or part-time basis by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Institutional Care. Assistance may be granted persons in licensed nursing homes, homes for the aged, hostels for transients, and other institutions offering residential or social rehabilitation programs. Rates are to be approved by the Director. A comforts allowance of up to \$15 a month is authorized.

Board Rates for Foster Children. Assistance on behalf of children cared for by a foster parent in the foster parent's home is subject to the approval of the Director. Assistance granted is in the form of health care services and an allowance for food and clothing. It must be established that the natural parents are unable to support the child, a transfer of legal guardianship is not required, and the foster home is considered suitable to meet the child's needs.

Transportation. Assistance for transportation may be granted for the following reasons: returning the recipient and his dependants to their normal place of residence; enabling a recipient or a dependant to obtain employment, or medical, hospital or nursing home care not provided at his normal place of residence; the relocation of persons in need for social and economic reasons. The latter is subject to approval by the Director.

Supplementary Assistance. Supplementary assistance may be granted a person "whose income from employment does not meet his needs". The Director must be satisfied that hardship would otherwise result. The former regulations prohibited aid to persons working for wages in full-time employment.

Welfare Services. The regulations authorize assistance in the form of welfare services to persons in need or to those who in the "absence of such services lose their capacity for self-support and become persons in need". Payments are authorized to provincially approved agencies for services which include the following: rehabilitation services; casework, counselling and assessment services; homemaker, day-care and similar services; and other services approved by the Director.

## Appeal

The changes in the administration of assistance have necessitated changes in appeal procedures. An Appeal Committee of three members, of whom one is the Chairman, is established. Members are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for three years and serve without



remuneration but may be paid a per diem allowance and travelling expenses. A recipient who is dissatisfied with a decision or treatment received at the district office may request that his case be referred to the Director. If he still feels aggrieved after the review by the Director, he may appeal to the Appeal Committee. The Committee's decision is final.

Under the former program administered by the municipalities, a person could appeal against a decision of municipal officials to the Welfare Committee established by the municipality, and he had the right of a further appeal to the Minister.

### Confidentiality

Information pertaining to a recipient is to be "restricted".

### QUEBEC

An amendment to the Needy Mothers Assistance Act, assented to March 31, 1966, effective from April 1, 1966, raised the maximum monthly allowance for a mother and one child from \$85 to \$95 and the amount payable on behalf of each additional child from \$10 to \$20. The allowable outside annual income was raised from \$600 to \$1,000.

### ONTARIO

During 1966, the Family Benefits Act was passed, and amendments made to The Department of Public Welfare Act and regulations and to The District Welfare Boards Act. An amendment to the regulations under The General Welfare Assistance Act (O. Reg. 189/66 gazetted July 9, 1966) added one Indian band to the list of those approved to administer assistance under the Act, thus bringing the total to 39.

### The Family Benefits Act

The Family Benefits Act, 1966 (S.O. 1966, c. 54), assented to July 8, 1966 and proclaimed effective from April 1, 1967, consolidates, with some changes, provisions for provincial allowances to persons formerly aided under a number of separate Acts. It replaces the following legislation which the Lieutenant-Governor is authorized to repeal on proclamation: The Old Age Assistance Act, The Disabled Persons' Allowances Act, The Blind Persons' Allowances Act, The Mothers' Allowances Act, and that section of The General Welfare Assistance Act governing allowances to dependent fathers and to needy widows and unmarried women. No further applications are to be received under these Acts after the effective date of the new Act. Persons receiving allowances under any of these Acts will receive an allowance under the new Act if they are eligible, but no person is to be transferred if it means a reduction in his allowance.

The Act, to be administered by the Director of the Family Benefits Branch of the Department of Public Welfare, provides for allowances and other benefits on the basis of need to persons formerly covered by the various Acts mentioned above with some extensions in coverage. The means test and the ten years' residence formerly required under the three federal-provincial categorical programs (OAA, BPA, DPA) have been eliminated. Allowances on behalf of dependent children who are attending an educational institution and are making satisfactory progress in their studies have been extended from the end of the school year in which the 18th birthday falls to 21 years of age. A divorced mother with a dependent child, formerly eligible for an allowance if she had been awarded custody of the child, is now eligible if she has not remarried. The age at which an unmarried mother may qualify for an allowance for her dependent child has been lowered from 18 to 16 years. No waiting period is now specified before a dependent father becomes eligible for an allowance when his wife has deserted him or is imprisoned in a penal institution. The qualifying period before a woman of 60 but under 65 years of age becomes eligible for an allowance has been reduced in two classes: for a deserted wife the period of desertion has been reduced from six months to three months, and for a separated wife, the period of separation has been reduced from seven to five years.

The penalty for obtaining assistance under false pretenses under the Act or aiding or abetting another to obtain assistance knowing he is not eligible has been increased from \$100 or imprisonment of up to three months to \$500 or imprisonment of up to six months.

Under this Act a board of review is to be appointed by the Minister of Public Welfare, who designates the chairman. The functions of this board are similar to those of the board of review under the former programs of allowances to needy mothers, dependent fathers, and widows and unmarried women. The number of members is to be set by the regulations. Any applicant or recipient affected by a decision, order or directive of the Director of the Family Benefits Branch, may request a hearing and review by the board of review, which may direct the Director to make such decision as the board considers appropriate and which is consistent with the Act. The order of the board is final, but a further application for a benefit may be made by the applicant when material circumstances have changed.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is authorized to make regulations necessary for carrying out the purposes of the Act, including the defining of "person in need", "blind person", "disabled person" and "permanently unemployable person"; determining residence; designating classes of benefits; specifying maximum amount of benefits and prescribing the manner of computing benefits.

The Act also provides that if for any reason the federal government ceases to make contributions under the Canada Assistance Plan or fails to carry out the agreement made with the Province under the Canada Assistance Plan, benefits under this Act cease.

#### The Department of Public Welfare Act and Regulations

The Department of Public Welfare Amendment Act, 1966 (S.O. 1966, c. 43), authorized the Minister of Public Welfare, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, to make agreements with the federal government respecting reimbursement for any portion of expenditures made by the Province of Ontario or by any municipality under any Act for the administration of which the Minister is responsible.

Under regulations (O. Reg. 282/66) gazetted September 24, 1966, Warrendale, Warrendale Court, Rexdale was declared an institution subject to the control of the Minister.

Under regulations (O. Reg. 320/66) gazetted October 29, 1966, governing subsidies for welfare services the definition of "local municipality" which under O. Reg. 270/65 meant "a local municipality that is within a county for municipal purposes", was extended to include a municipality so defined before January 1, 1966 and which on or after that date became a town or city separate from the county for municipal purposes.

#### The District Welfare Boards Act

The District Welfare Boards Amendment Act, 1966 (S.O. 1966, c. 46), to be effective September 1, 1966, made several amendments in the Act of 1962-63.

"District" which formerly meant the territorial or electoral districts specifically named in the Act now is defined as an area forming the territorial districts defined in the regulations.

The welfare services for which the Province will reimburse a municipality and which formerly included maintenance costs for children in care of children's aid societies are extended to include expenditures for the operating costs of children's aid societies.

The amendment also provides that if a municipality for which a board is established becomes a city, it may continue to be considered a municipality for purposes of the Act if the council so requests and the Minister of Public Welfare approves.



MANITOBA

During 1966 certain sections of the Social Allowances Act were proclaimed; an amendment to the Social Allowances Act (S.M. 1966, c. 58) was assented to April 27, 1966 and subsequently proclaimed effective from April 1, 1967; and rates of social allowances were revised under an amendment to the regulations.

Under a proclamation gazetted October 8, 1966, those provisions of the Social Allowances Act, 1959, relating to allowances payable by the Province to a mother of one or more dependent children were extended through the bringing into force of those clauses under which allowances are authorized to three categories of mothers: effective October 1, 1966, to a mother who has been deserted by her husband for a period of one year; effective January 1, 1967, to a mother whose husband has been sentenced to imprisonment for one year or more; and effective January 1, 1967, to a mother who is unmarried and caring for two or more of her children in her own home.

The Act to amend the Social Allowances Act sets out rights of appeal, specifies certain conditions under which reimbursement is made to municipalities, outlines the procedure for the payment of assistance to persons who are not residents of a municipality, provides for provincial sharing with municipalities in the costs of administration of assistance and work activity projects, and extends the list of matters which may be governed by regulation.

The section formerly dealing with the right of appeal applied only to persons who were receiving a provincial social allowance. The amended section applies also to persons who have applied for, are receiving, or were receiving indigent relief from a municipality which has passed a by-law making the provisions of this Act applicable in respect of assistance granted by it. The procedure for appeal against a decision of a municipality is the same as that against a decision of the Director. The person appealing against a decision which adversely affects him, sends or gives to the chairman of the appeal board a written notice of his desire to appeal. The provisions of the 1966 amendment, however, will expedite appeal proceedings since the time which may elapse between receipt of the notice by the chairman and the date of the hearing has been reduced from 90 days to 15 days, and the length of notice which the chairman is required to give all concerned has been reduced from one week to three days.

Assistance to persons in need granted by a municipality is sharable with the Province provided that: persons assisted are not eligible to receive a provincial social allowance; the municipality establishes by by-law a schedule of assistance which meets the cost of basic necessities; the municipality has provided by by-law for an appeal procedure; assistance is granted to needy persons without

regard to their residence. When a municipality grants assistance in accordance with these requirements to a person who is not a resident of the municipality, the Province reimburses the municipality for the full amount of assistance given.

Nevertheless, a municipality is not entitled to receive provincial payments unless it contributes to the provincial government: (1) 20 per cent of the amount which the provincial government contributes toward the assistance of persons who are legal residents of the municipality, but who are living in and have received aid from another municipality; and (2) 20 per cent of the allowance which the Province has paid to a person living in the municipality and not receiving a provincial social allowance, who has applied to the Director of Social Allowances for aid, and the Director has provided for his maintenance in the same way in which the municipality is authorized to make provision for indigent persons in the municipality.

If the total indigent relief paid by the municipality in any year includes payments under the provisions of (1) or (2) above and exceeds an amount that is equivalent to a levy of 3 mills on each dollar of the equalized assessment of the municipality in that year, the Province will pay to the municipality the lesser of: the total of payments made under (1) and (2) in that year; or the amount by which the total amount of indigent relief, including payments made for non-residents, exceeds the amount equivalent to a levy of 3 mills.

The Province is authorized to pay from the Consolidated Fund to each municipality a grant of 50 per cent of the amount by which its costs in that year for salary and wages of staff engaged in full-time welfare work exceeds its costs for the year 1964. For purposes of reimbursement, the cost to the municipality of an approved work activity project is considered to be indigent relief.

Regulations which the Lieutenant-Governor in Council is authorized to make have been extended to include regulations prescribing rules for determining the income and financial resources of applicants for social allowances and for determining the amount of a social allowance that a resident is entitled to receive, prescribing conditions which a recipient must meet to establish continuing eligibility, and regulations respecting work activity projects and the costs involved in such projects which may be included in the relief costs of a municipality.

Regulations gazetted during the year revised rates of allowances. Under Manitoba Regulation 27/66 gazetted April 9, 1966 with effect from April 1, 1966, \$5 a month may be granted each blind recipient over and above the prescribed allowance for household and personal needs, and an additional \$2 a month may be granted each ambulant recipient living in an institution for the aged and infirm.

Under Manitoba Regulation 45/66 gazetted May 14, 1966, to be effective July 1, 1966, the monthly rates for food were increased by \$1.00 for each adult and for each child, the rates for food and shelter away from home were increased, and a new provision authorized an allowance of \$70 a month in lieu of board and room for single persons whose living arrangements require restaurant meals.

The rate for room and board without special care in the home of a relative was raised from a maximum of \$45 to \$50 a month for a single person and from \$80 to \$90 a month for a couple. The rates for single persons and couples in private boarding homes were increased by similar amounts to \$65 and \$110 respectively.

The maximum rate for board and room with special care in the home of a relative for a single person was increased by \$10 to \$85 a month; the maximum rate for a couple was increased by \$15 to \$120 a month where one requires special care, and by \$20 to \$150 a month where both require special care. The maximum amount for single persons requiring special care in a private boarding home was raised by \$10 to \$100 a month; the rates for couples remain as formerly at \$140 a month where one requires special care and at \$175 a month where both require special care.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

Extensive changes in the administration of assistance were made in Saskatchewan under new legislation establishing one comprehensive program under which aid is granted on the basis of need irrespective of the cause of need.

The Saskatchewan Assistance Act, assented to March 11, 1966, and proclaimed effective April 1, 1966, repealed the Social Aid Act, with the exception of Section 33. (Section 33 declared that all caveats and notices of the granting of a mothers' allowance registered in land titles offices were vacated and discharged and authorized registrars of land titles to remove such caveats and notices from any title previously affected by a statutory charge on land in respect of a mother's allowance).

Saskatchewan Regulation 78/66 (O.C. 730/66) gazetted April 22, 1966, became effective from April 1, 1966 except Sections 25, 26 and 27, relating to rates of assistance, which became effective May 1, 1966. The former Social Aid Regulations were repealed effective April 1, 1966 with the exception of Sections 26 and 27 (rates of assistance) repealed effective May 1, 1966.

These regulations incorporate, with amendments, the provisions of the former Social Aid Regulations and regulations governing aid to dependent families and to persons requiring supplemental allowances.



Accordingly, Saskatchewan Regulation 79/66 (O.C. 731/66) repealed the Aid to Dependent Families Regulations effective April 1, 1966, and Saskatchewan Regulation 80/66 (O.C. 732/66) repealed The Supplemental Allowance Regulations effective April 1, 1966.

Also, applications under The Disabled Persons' Allowances Act, The Blind Persons' Allowances Act and The Old Age Assistance Act were discontinued from April 1, 1966 under authority of Regulations 71/66, 72/66 and 73/66 respectively, gazetted April 15, 1966.

#### The Saskatchewan Assistance Act

The new Act retains many of the provisions of the former Act, but major changes have been included. The Act eliminates categorical allowances; extends the definition of "assistance" to include health services and other assistance authorized by the regulations; replaces the term "indigent person" with "person in need"; defines the unit of administration; omits certain provisions of the former Act; establishes an Accreditation Committee to ensure that standards of administration and services are being met; sets up a Provincial Municipal Advisory Board; extends penalties for violations of the Act; and revises the list of matters to be governed by regulation.

Allowances to needy mothers with dependent children and supplementary aid to recipients of old age security pensions and blind persons' allowances administered by the Province under the former Act, are now to be administered by provincial or local units in the same way as allowances for other persons in need.

The "unit" of administration is defined as "a provincial or local unit consisting of one, two or more municipalities which has or have been designated by the Minister as a unit to administer assistance to persons residing within the unit who are persons in need". Assistance to persons in an area not within the confines of a local unit are administered by a regional office of the Department of Welfare designated a provincial unit for the purpose.

Those sections of the former Act prohibiting the transportation of indigents from one municipality to another without prior approval of the municipality concerned are omitted from the new Act. Appeal procedures from decisions of a local or provincial unit are as those formerly prescribed for appeals from municipalities. Remuneration of committee members hearing appeals, formerly set by the Act, are now to be prescribed by regulation.

Accreditation Committee. Each local unit, must be accredited by the Accreditation Committee, which consists of seven persons appointed by the Minister. It is the function of this Committee to accredit a proposed unit and to ensure that it meets the established requirements to administer assistance as set out in the regulations.

If a unit is not complying with the regulations, the Committee may withdraw accreditation. An appeal is permitted to a mediator chosen by agreement between the applicant or unit and the Accreditation Committee; if they are unable to agree on a mediator, the Minister of Welfare<sup>1/</sup> may act as mediator or may appoint a mediator.

Provincial Municipal Advisory Board. The Act establishes a Provincial Municipal Advisory Board of not more than twelve members, including representatives of urban and rural municipal associations and such other representatives as the Minister may appoint. The Board is required to meet at least once a year, but may meet more often if the Minister so directs. Its function is to review, assess and make recommendations relative to the programs being carried out under the Act and Regulations.

Penalties. The provisions providing for penalties under the Act have been extended. New sections authorize a fine, and in default of payment, imprisonment, if a person is found guilty of the offence of continuing to receive assistance when he has received assets which he has not reported when he "ought reasonably to know that he is no longer eligible".

A local unit is authorized to recover by action at law any over-payment to any person who has obtained assistance for himself or another by giving false information or concealing information. It may also recover payment made to a person who has been found guilty of an offence under the Act or of any offence under the Criminal Code in respect of payment of money under this Act.

#### Regulations

As under the former Act, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations governing a wide range of matters arising under this Act. These matters have been extended to staff development programs to be carried out by provincial and local units, statistics to be kept by the province and made available to the federal government, the prerequisites to accredit a unit for the purpose of administering assistance, boards to advise units on matters related to the administration of assistance, and remuneration of consultants and advisors in carrying out the purpose and intent of the Act. Also, amounts to cover the expenses of each member of an Appeal Committee formerly specified in the Act are now to be set by regulation.

The new regulations include provisions to correspond with the requirements of the new Act and also include revisions of rates for some items of basic maintenance, some additional items of special need and changes in the calculation of resources.

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<sup>1/</sup> The Department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation became the Department of Welfare in 1965.

Health Services. The regulations outline the procedure to be followed when health services only are required and when the need is a matter of immediate urgency. Under these circumstances, the medical practitioner concerned is required to make a referral to the unit in which the recipient resides within seven days after his first contact with the patient. Hospitals are also required to make a referral to the unit within seven days of admission. The date of contact in each case is considered the date of application, except when referral is made after seven days, the date of referral is considered the date of application.

Rates of Assistance. As formerly, a ceiling is placed upon the amount of assistance which may be granted to an employable recipient. The amount now granted may not be in excess of 90 per cent of his normal earning ability; the previous proportion was 95 per cent or \$200 a month whichever was the lesser. As formerly, some discretion is permitted in the application of this regulation.

The new regulations establish a separate schedule of monthly allowances for persons requiring short-term, emergency or interim assistance. A lump sum is specified for a single adult (\$59.25) and for varying sizes of family units (\$87.75 for a family with one adult and one child; \$200.50 for one adult and five children; \$95.50 for a family of two adults and one child \$208.25 for a family with two adults and four children ) to cover the cost of food, clothing, fuel, utilities and personal and household necessities. The rent allowance is the actual amount paid or the schedule in use for long-term recipients may be used.

For persons who require assistance for a longer term, the total allowance is calculated, as formerly, on the basis of schedules for the various items of basic maintenance. The ordinary food allowances for food cooked in the home have been increased. The rates for each adult has been increased from \$21.50 to \$24 monthly. The monthly rate for children in each of the four age ranges (which have been altered) have also been increased. For example, under the new schedule a child of 15 to 19 years is granted a food allowance of \$25.50; under former regulations the food allowance for a child 16 to 18 years of age was \$23 a month.

Increases have also been made in the rates for meals and accommodation purchased away from home, in fuel allowances for heating with natural gas, in allowances for electricity, and in personal and household allowances.

The list of "other items of special need" now includes a special-care allowance of up to \$25 a month for a handicapped recipient to enable him to pay for tasks which he is unable to perform. An allowance for a telephone may be provided if it is necessary to secure work, emergency medical care or for any other special circumstances.



Resources. In determining financial resources several changes have been made. Exemptions now include premiums paid by or deducted from wages on behalf of the recipient to cover the costs of medical and hospital care. A single employable recipient may now have cash assets up to \$200 if he is expected to be in receipt of assistance for more than 90 days. An unemployable recipient may have \$500 if single and \$1,000 if he has dependants when it appears that it is unlikely he will be able to return to work in the foreseeable future. The former exemption of a cash surrender value of life insurance of up to \$600 for certain recipients is not included in these regulations.

In calculating income the amount of the gross income from suites in premises occupied by the recipient has been reduced from 90 per cent to 80 per cent.

The period in which a recipient is given in which to convert liquid assets into cash or on which to realize the funds from real assets has been extended from 60 to 90 days.

Accreditation of Local Units. The procedure for accreditation of a municipality or a group of municipalities forming a unit is outlined. Each application to the Accreditation Committee must be accompanied by the draft by-law required under the Act and a statement of the number, qualifications and duties of existing as well as anticipated staff. The unit must adopt objectives consistent with those contained in the Saskatchewan Assistance Act. The unit must, for example, provide persons in need with adequate assistance, including health services, and must make available to persons in need appropriate counselling, rehabilitative and preventive services. Every unit is required to establish a Board of not less than five and not more than 10 members representative of municipalities and, if possible, a cross section of the economic and cultural forces in the community. The Board is required to meet at regular intervals to evaluate needs in the community, to suggest changes and improvements in the services offered and to interpret needs and services to the community.

The Accreditation Committee is required to have the applicant's operation and plans examined by the Department and to review the results of the examination together with the application and accompanying documents. If satisfied that the unit meets the requirements, the Committee grants a certificate of accreditation. If the unit does not meet the requirements but is making a serious effort to do so, the Committee may grant provisional accreditation. If the applicant does not meet the requirements or does not meet them within a specified time, the Committee may reject the application.

The Accreditation Committee must arrange for the Department to review the status of each unit and report to the Committee at least once every five years or whenever a major change occurs in the senior staff, unit policy or operation.

Staff Requirements. The regulations specify the staff to be employed by the unit. There must be at least one supervisor, three field workers and one clerical staff. There must be an adequate number of field workers, supervisors, clerical and accounting staff to comply with the workload standards which may be prescribed or approved by the director. The supervisor of field workers must have successfully completed graduate studies at a recognized school of social work, or if his training is outside of Canada, his educational qualifications must be recognized by the Canadian Association of Social Workers. Field workers must have as a minimum a Bachelor of Arts or equivalent degree, or Grade XII education and at least five years' experience in another profession such as teaching, nursing or the ministry, or in any "other position which demands personal contact in helping people in a supporting role".

Duties of a Unit. A unit must institute a staff development program including "planned orientation of new staff and opportunities for staff to attend workshops and institutes sponsored by the unit, province or other organization". A unit shall use "appropriate case management, including assessment and classification of cases, in relation to goals and focus of service," and "institute periodic review of case plans and reclassification".

In accordance with the terms of the Act, the duties of the unit prescribed in the regulations include those duties formerly the duties of the municipality and in addition require that the unit provide welfare services which are listed as: "counselling regarding family, social and economic problems; such medical, psychological and vocational assessment, counselling and other services as may be needed for the rehabilitation of recipients; preventive services, such as counselling relative to problems threatening the stability of the family unit, vocational guidance for children of recipients and any other services necessary to prevent dependency; public education on the goals, needs and problems of the assistance program." A unit is required to inquire into the characteristics of the caseload and the relationship to community problems, trends in caseload and expenditures, effects of policy changes and effectiveness of measures to deal with needs and problems in the unit.

A local unit is required to give at least nine months' notice to the Department of Welfare before terminating the agreement with the Province under which it is administering assistance.

Financing. The new Act has not altered the method of payment by municipalities of a share of the cost of assistance. The regulations, however, have altered the formula and have made provision for the inclusion of the costs of administration and services. The municipal collective share is the lesser of: five per cent of the prima facie cost of assistance, and services during the fiscal year in question; or an amount computed by projecting to 1970-71 the base year share at a compound interest rate of three per cent from the base year of 1966-67. The base share for 1966-67 is five per cent of \$22,613,800, which represents the estimated costs of assistance, administration of

assistance, and services under the Act. Each municipality's share is, as formerly, based on the per capita rate (which varies by class of municipality) and on the population of the municipality in relation to total population.

The Provincial Municipal Advisory Board is to examine the sharing formula before the end of the 1970-71 fiscal year and make any necessary recommendations. The Board may also make recommendations for any changes deemed necessary on request of either the Province or the municipalities if changes in program reduce or increase the average cost per recipient.

#### ALBERTA

During 1966, The Preventive Social Services Act (S.A. 1966, c. 72) was passed and an amendment to The Public Welfare Act (S.A. 1966, c. 84) enacted. Regulations under these Acts were gazetted August 31, 1966.

#### The Preventive Social Services Act and Regulations

The Preventive Social Services Act assented to April 7, 1966, which came into force July 1, 1966, authorizes municipalities to provide preventive social services. The purpose of the Act, as outlined in the explanatory note accompanying the Bill on introduction in the Legislature is "to encourage municipalities to sponsor programs aimed at preventing the development of circumstances resulting in people becoming in need of help under The Public Welfare Act and The Child Welfare Act".

A municipality is authorized to provide for the establishment, administration and operation of preventive social service programs within the municipality or to enter into agreements with other municipalities for the joint provision of such services, and is authorized to appropriate money for these purposes.

Under this Act, the Province will reimburse a municipality for 80 per cent of the following expenditures: costs of administration of material aid given needy persons under The Public Welfare Act; municipal expenses in connection with the administration of preventive social service programs; and the cost to the municipality for the establishment and operation of such programs.

The Minister of Public Welfare is authorized to define "preventive social services", to determine those expenses which may be included for reimbursement, to prescribe standards to be maintained as a condition of reimbursement, to enter into agreements with municipalities respecting preventive social service programs, and to make regulations respecting such programs and any other matter necessary to carry out the intent of the Act.



Under Alberta Regulation 271/66, gazetted August 31, 1966, the Minister of Public Welfare ordered that the rules and principles as set out in the Administrative and Policy Guide to the Preventive Social Service Program be established as the standards and regulations. This regulation also authorizes cost-sharing to start from the first day of the month in which an approved project is initiated by a municipality with whom an agreement has been entered into. It terminates on the last day of the month in which the agreement is terminated or the last approved project is discontinued, whichever occurs first.

#### The Public Welfare Act and Regulations

The amendment to The Public Welfare Act, which went into force on the date of Royal Assent, April 7, 1966, included changes to take account of The Preventive Social Services Act and made a number of other significant amendments, including the establishment of an advisory body with certain standard-setting functions, and the extension of eligibility provisions. The Minister of Public Welfare is authorized to make, out of moneys appropriated by the Legislature, such provision "as is expedient or desirable" for the establishment, operation and co-ordination of preventive social service programs.

An advisory board, the Public Welfare Commission, is to be established consisting of three to five members appointed from among officers and employees of the Department. Appointments are made by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council who also appoints the Chairman and may also appoint a deputy Chairman. The duties of the Commission are to advise the Minister of Public Welfare on matters relating to public welfare, to advise the officers and employees of the Department on the administration of welfare legislation, to encourage the development and maintenance of high standards of public welfare and other social services, to prescribe "standards and methods of work to be maintained and adopted by employees in the Department in all areas of welfare work".

The Commission also acts as an appeal board to which any person affected by a decision of any employee of the Department may appeal. The Commission may confirm, reverse or vary the decision of the employee. A further appeal may be made from the decision of the Commission to the Minister, who may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Commission.

The amendment retains the provision that the Minister may appoint committees as required from time to time to investigate problems of material aid, but the provision that these committees arrange for "the acquisition of food and clothing for public distribution has been deleted.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is authorized to make regulations governing the adequacy of material aid, including the food allowance, granted by municipalities and the basis of calculation of determining adequacy. If a municipality fails to provide material aid or adequate aid, the Minister may give assistance as required and recover the amount from the grant payable to the municipality.

A new section requires each municipality to appoint one or more welfare workers for the municipality and to notify the Commission of each appointment. The approval of the Commission is required before a welfare worker takes up his duties. Approval of an appointment expires at the end of the year in which it is given but is renewable annually. The Commission may withdraw or refuse to renew its approval of an appointment if it is satisfied that the welfare worker concerned is not maintaining the standards of work prescribed by the Commission. The Minister may prescribe the qualifications for staff and the standards to be maintained and adopted by welfare workers appointed by municipalities.

Eligibility requirements under Part III of the Act which governs provincial social allowances have been liberalized. The definition of "dependant" which applied to children over sixteen years but under nineteen who were attending school and making satisfactory progress has been extended to children under twenty-one years of age. The definition of "dependant" is now extended also to children in this age range who are prevented from attending school because of mental or physical disability. Social allowances are extended to any person (formerly the legislation applied to the mother only) who has in his custody a dependent child whom he is personally caring for and who is unable to earn an income to provide the basic necessities for himself and the child. Also, a social allowance may be paid to a person who cannot provide for himself and his dependants while he is receiving rehabilitation services.

Under Alberta Regulation 140/66 gazetted April 30, 1966, effective April 1, 1966, food and clothing rates for recipients of provincial social allowances were adjusted upward in accordance with departmental policy of reviewing and revising rates annually to take into account current living costs. The adjustment formerly made in the food allowance for a family of three persons is now to be increased by a further 5 per cent if one of the family members is an infant.





Produced by  
Department of National Health and Welfare, Canada  
by authority of the Minister  
the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen  
November, 1967





